

The VHF-UHF Online Digest

The Worldwide TV-FM DX Association - PO Box 501, Somersville, CT 06072

The online home of the WTFDA

THE WORLDWIDE TV-FM DX ASSOCIATION IS DEDICATED TO THE OBSERVATION AND STUDY OF LONG DISTANCE VHF AND UHF PROPAGATION AS IT APPLIES TO SIGNALS FROM 30MHZ THROUGH 600MHZ WITH EMPHASIS ON BROADCAST TELEVISION AND FM RADIO. The WTFDA Board of Directors are: Keith McGinnis (longwave@comcast.net), James Thomas (jethomas1955@gmail.com), Nick Langan (nickl@wtfda.org), Mike bugaj (mike@wtfda.org) and Jon Klingerman (jon@wtfda.org).

OCTOBER 2023

Hello! This is our very first complete VUD online. At this point I'd say that the transition is complete. The DX columns are now in the table below. The Mailbox is here is spirit. Much of the content on this page will change from month to month. Instead of reprinting artlcles from various sources we will just link to them here. There will not be an archive of online VUDs. Come back on the first of the month for new stuff. We will remind you.

The end of August and the first few days of September were pretty hectic for Dxers in the midwest but since then Dxing has slowed down considerably. Since we are entering the middle of fall, there's always the chance for more tropo, so pay attention and check out the Wlogger to see if someone is noticing something.

NEW MEMBERS. Welcome to John Hanna (IL) and to Danny Kolhage in Winter Garden, FL who joined on the 27th. John was a WTFDA member years ago, so welcome back!

LOGGING IN AND LOGGING OUT. When you're finished reading this page, log yourself out before going to the other public pages on this site. If you want to come back here again, log yourself back in again. Going to other pages on this site using the above menu on this page will take you back to the public site and you won't be able to come back here again without logging in first. I hope this isn't confusing.

GONE. It recently was made known to us that material in our FM Changes column was being used by a third party for purposes other than it was intended. There is no way that data from FM Changes should have ended up in the hands of a commercial third party unless the data was given to them. FM Changes was a labor of love to the members of our club from your US FM database editors. It was abused, so FM Changes is no longer.

SDR SALES. This month we notice that Ham Radio Outlet has the SDRPlay RSP-1A on sale for $119.95 and Airspy is selling their Airspy Mini for just $99. Either one of those is a good SDR for a beginner. The RSP-1A is in a plastic black box while the Mini is a metal enclosed dongle that plugs into your computer. The Mini will show you up to 6mhz of spectrum (like an Elad S1) while you can get upto 10mhz with an RSP-1A. We have links to both sites here on the right so take a look if you're interested.

TEF 6686 PORTABLES. Someone on the WTFDA forums recently asked about good portable radios for FM Dxing. Now that I own one, in my opinion and the opinions of others, nothing beats a radio with the TEF 6686 chip in it. The sensitivity of this chip is such that, according to tests done by member Bill Honstein and posted on the WTFDA Forums, adjacent channel selectivity is just a couple of dbs less than that of the Sony XDR-F1HD! An outdoor antenna can be attached using an SMA to F fitting, pointed at a strong local station and the radio will NOT overload. We've put a link to reputable Amazon seller GOOZEEGOO on the right. His price is $129 and you can get quick delivery from him.

ATSC 3.0 OBSOLETE? Bill Hepburn posted this on Mewe: ***The HEVC (H.265) codec used in ATSC 3.0 has already been succedded by VVC (H.266), which is even more bandwidth-efficient allowing even more programs per channel. So instead of an ATSC -> ATSC 3.0 transition, could it end up being an ATSC -> ATSC 4.0 transition? The ITU is also ready to add two 5G TV broadcast modes (which would use UHF-TV channels and be separate from the cellular 5G network).*** Bill Hohnstein replied: ***"ATSC 3.0 isn't married to a single video format. Right now, ATSC 3.0 uses the H.265 HEVC codec for video delivery***

SDRconnect

SDRplay

AIRSPY



YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

HAM RADIO OUTLET



because of its efficiency gains over the much older H.262 MPEG-2 codec used in ATSC 1.0. Over time and through upgrades, it will be able to adopt newer codecs like the recently finalized H.266 VVC codec, which is the leading candidate to usher in 8K when that time comes.” Read more about that here.

WNYZ-LD. One if the items we have for you this month is a document that WNYZ-LD submitted to the FCC recently. WNYZ-LD, for those who don't know, is on channel six in New York City plus it broadcasts on 87.75mhz which makes it a Franken FM. It's a tech document outlining their TV and FM operation that you may find interesting, plus it has a detailed coverage map that answers the question why so few people have heard (or seen) the station. You'll find the document in the table below.

Here's a question from Bill Lipis in San Diego: ***A couple OTA tv viewers I've run into have had their newer Vizio TV sets audio switch from OTA to internet "streams". There doesn't seem to be manual/auto input modes on these Visio sets. It's a hassle for folks, especially if you want to stay OTA. I suggested they just disconnect the cat5 internet cable while in OTA mode. You DX folks run into this? Perhaps the TV stations are now sending out OTA "flags" to tell sets to switch to internet? It's crazy. Many NFL games are now only on "streaming" and not OTA.***

Doing a little more checking, Ifound this Vizio "auto" switching article. Seems to be common issue with "smart TVs". Newer TVs are just big screens powered by computer chips with insensitive tuners. Even the remotes aren't simple anymore. Smertcast—-is way too smart!!!! even without Internet connected looks like it's saying it will try and go back to "old" inputs. This is why I have an older set and sticking to it! I'm reading about all the encryption "flags" stations put out on secondary ATSC 3/NexGen channels mainly to stop recording and OTA free use. Plus the 3.0 DRM issues that still unresolved.

Well, my LG "Smart TV" was doing the same thing, which was going to the internet screen when turned on instead of HDMI1. Thanks to this email from Bill I was able to fix that by going into the LG menus and turning it off. My wife thanked me and I thank Bill in return.

LG DROPS ATSC 3.0 TUNERS IN NEW TVS! Bill Lipis also sent along this link to a YouTube video that explains why this happened and why it's not a good sign for ATSC 3.0.

Have a great October and we will see you here next month. And as usual I would like your comments on this new format. -Mike

FM DXers Club Champions

Do you have over 1,000 stations logged? Tell us and be added to this list of all time top FM DXers. Email Fred Nordquist with your totals and your FM totals will be added to this list. Even if you only have a few loggings, let Fred know and he will add them and you can document your DX journey as you log more and more stations.

Updated 5/29/24 (4 changes). D=deceased.

Show 10 entries Search:

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DXer NAME	LOCATION	TOTAL FM
Fred Nordquist	Moncks Corner, SC	4505
Pat Dyer	San Antonio, TX	4349-D
Rob Ross	London, ON	3990
Rick Shaftan	Sparta, NJ	3526
John Zondlo	Yukon, OK	3306
Randy Zerr	Ft.Walton Beach, FL	3263
Mike Bugaj	Enfield, CT	3160
Nick Langan	Florence, NJ	3154
Jeff Falconer	Clinton, ON	3021
Russ Edmunds	Blue Bell, PA	2925

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